

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 3 and 5-7 remain in this application.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §112

Claims 3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for not complying with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

The position of the Official Action was that the thickness of the coating material being at least 100nm is not suggested by the originally filed application.

However, this should be readily apparent from the data provided in Figure 2. If the thickness of the coating material was less than 100 nm, then one of ordinary skill in the art would have expected to see the presence of the metallic material, for example iron, by the photoelectron spectroscopy measurement. Indeed, at the very least, one would have expected to see a change in the chromium concentration curve due to the change from the coating material to the metallic material surface.

Therefore, claim 3, as well as claims 5-7, comply with the written description, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 USC §103

Claims 3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WILKINSON U.S. 3,480,483 ("WILKINSON") in view of OHMI EP 0725160A1 ("OHMI"). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons below.

WILKINSON discloses coating a thin layer of chromium on the cutting edge of razor blades, and oxidizing by heat treatment.

OHMI was offered for teaching baking in order to remove any adhering moisture, and heat treatment in an inert gas atmosphere.

The conclusion was that it would have been obvious to use the baking step of OHMI after the coating step of WILKINSON in order to remove any adhering moisture from the blades.

However, in OHMI baking is carried out for a stainless steel, whereas in the present application baking is carried out for a chromium coating which has been plated onto a metallic material with a surface roughness of not more than 1.5µm.

Thus, there is an effect that the contact of the interface between the metallic material and the chromium coating material is improved, other than removing any adhering moisture.

As neither document recognizes such an effect, i.e., to improve the interface between a metallic material and a chromium coating material, this is an unexpected result.

Therefore, the claimed invention is unobvious over the proposed combination, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert A. Madsen/
Robert A. Madsen, Reg. No. 58,543
Customer No. 00466
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

RAM/dp/lrs